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A. J. Morrison

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VIRGINIA PATENTS.

A. J. MORRISON

The genealogy of our industrial works in Virginia is worth notice. It has been a good deal forgotten that John Heavin, of Montgomery County; James Barron, of Hampton, D. M. Randolph, of Henrico, and others were considerable inventors before 1825. We know hardly anything of the famous McCormick plough of 1826 or of Durham and Pleasant's "machine for cutting grain by horse power," of 1827. The Ruffner salt apparatus of 1817 and later was very important. We have to be reminded that Loudoun County produced washing machines in the old times, that Dumfries was a place of invention, that the distillery business of the State was regularly patented, and that Peter Laporte, of Richmond and elsewhere, was a very capable man. For that matter, who knows anything worth mentioning about the old Gallego Mills, or the book trade and publishing business of Richmond "before the war?" Who was J. W. Randolph?

The items given in this list through 1824 (and a few beyond) are drawn from the printed statements issued from the Patent Office, at first in 1805 for the period since 1790, and then annually. The Patent Office was in the State Department at first and Secretary Madison in 1805 neglected to order the lists complete so as to show the residence of the inventor. Later he was more careful, and Secretary Monroe was careful to have the inventor's place of residence appear. These extracts therefore begin with 1805, and it must be said that through 1824 the Patent Office seems now

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and then to have thrown the lists together in a hurry. Some one could render a service by working out this matter of early Virginia patents.

1805. John Houston, Williamsburg.	Metallic Hone.
Daniel Atherton, Richmond.	Physiognotrace.
John Heavin, Montgomery Co.	In propelling boats.
" " " "	Machine for cutting straw.

- William Hodgson, Richmond. Tile and Brick apparatus.
- William Harwood, Richmond. In making pantiles.
1806. William Tullock, Orange Co. Grain screens.
James deneale, Dumfries. Perpetual oven.
1807. Benjamin B. Bernard, ----- In thrashing machines.
1808. Caleb Johnson, New Glasgow. Double lever tobacco press.
John Thomas Ricketts, Fairfax Co. Rice huller &c.
John West, Stafford Co. In ovens.
1809. John Robinson, Charlotte Co. In curing tobacco.
James Deneale, Dumfries. Wheat rubber machine.
Robert Robinson, Leesburgh. Washing machine.
1810. George Easterly, Richmond. Mf'g barilla from tobacco stems,
corn stalks &c.
Michael Garber, Sr., Staunton In distilling.
1810. William Armistead, Price William Co. Weevil prevention.
1811. David Dungan, Loudoun Co. Washing machine.
John Staples, Richmond. Pendulum steam engine.
William Harper, Richmond. Hemp and flax breaker &c.
Wm. Presley Claiborne, King William Co. For cutting wheat.
1812. William richards, Culpeper Co. Threshing machine.
John Heavin, Montgomery Co. Shingle dresser.
Geo. McAdam Brown, Northumberland Co. Grain separator.
Ambrose Dudley, King William Co. In mf'g salt.
William Stanton, Lynchburg. Washing machine.
William Mayo, Henrico Co. For grinding Corn in cobb.
Amos Bolton, Fauquier Co. Mill water-gate.
Ethan Owen, Prince George Co. Saw mill to be worked by animal power.
John Heavin, Montgomery Co. In the loom.

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- Robert Christy, Jefferson Co. Elevator for grain or fluids.
Robert Smether, Orange Co. In bridles.
1813. David Cramm, Clarksburg. Machine for cutting timber.
John J. Cabell, Lynchburg. Apparatus for mf'g salt.
John Heavin, Montgomery C.H. Rope and twine machine.
Daniel Harrington, Fairfax Co. A warm bathing vessel.
James Wheatley, Farquier Co. Still and condensing tub.
John Humes, Richmond. Machine for cutting screws.
1814. Samuel K. Jennings, Lynchburg. A warm and portable bath.
John Heavin, Montgomery Co. In looms
Ezra Talmage, Richmond. In stills.
Brightberry Brown, Albemarle Co. Water loom.
William M. Hawkins, King & Queen Co. Salt water evaporator.
Jacob Sprinkel, Wythe Co. In the loom.
Benj. James Harris, Richmond. Fireproof ceiling.
Joseph Tuley, Frederick Co. A family stove.
Thomas K. Beale, Alexandria. Method for brick cornices.
1814. John J. Cabell, Lynchburg. In mf'g salt.
Charles Hill, Essex Co. A machine for weeding corn and other crops.
Henry Spickard, Fincastle. Clover seed cleaner.
Thomas Shurley, Madison Co. Heater for mf'g spiritous liquors.
William Cornwell, Accomac Co. Horizontal water wheel for mills.
1815. Samuel Arnold, Botetourt co. Clover seed cleaner.
Frederick Oswan, Harper's Ferry. In guns and rifles.